



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE
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DEMOCRACY
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2010 Democracy Video Challenge

Forum For the Future

Forum Aimed At Supporting Progress and Expanding Opportunities in the Region



"The Forum for the Future is a gathering dedicated to creating the broadest possible network of partnerships in pursuit of common goals. It brings together not only government ministers, but representatives from civil society. And I am grateful too that we will work on the important issues confronting us – from regional security, economic development, religious tolerance, social reforms – because none of these goals can be accomplished through laws or governments alone. They require a broad coalition of likeminded people who translate laws into lasting change."

Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton
Marrakesh, Morocco, November 2, 2009

MARRAKESH, MOROCCO, Nov. 03 -- Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton delivered remarks at the 6th Forum for the Future - a joint initiative of the countries of the broader Middle East and North Africa region and the industrialized countries of the G-8. The forum is a unique partnership between governments of the region, the G8, civil society representatives and private sector leaders to discuss and exchange ideas on how to best work together to support progress and expand opportunities for the people of the region.

Secretary Clinton focused on partnerships to promote civil society, entrepreneurship and economic development, educational opportunity, scientific and technological collaboration, women's empowerment, and interfaith cooperation. She stated, "as President Obama and I believe, it is results, not rhetoric, that matter in the end...economic empowerment, education, healthcare, access to energy and to credit, these are the basics that all communities need to thrive. And the United States seeks to pursue these common aspirations through concrete actions."

[Secretary Clinton's Remarks: Forum for the Future](#) | [Forum for the Future & Examples of U.S. Support for Civil Society](#) | [Civil Society 2.0 Initiative](#) | [Secretary Clinton's Remarks With Moroccan Foreign Minister](#)

Global Partnerships to Advance Cairo's "New Beginning"

Science and Technology

The United States will be a partner in laying the foundation of knowledge economies that will spur innovation, and will support societies in grappling with their greatest economic and environmental challenges. Initiatives include:

- Establishing the **U.S. Science Envoy Program** in which three of America's most prominent scientists, Dr Ahmed Zewail, Dr. Bruce Alberts and Dr. Elias Zerhouni, will travel to countries in North Africa, the Middle East, and South and Southeast Asia to engage their counterparts, deepen and develop partnerships in all areas of science and technology, and foster meaningful collaboration to address common challenges and realized shared opportunities.
- Debuting the **Global Technology and Innovation Fund** through which the Overseas Private Investment Corporation (OPIC) will catalyze and facilitate private-sector investments in programs in Asia, the Middle East, and Africa in technology, education, telecom, media, business services and financial technology and green technologies.

Entrepreneurship and Job Creation

The United States will be a partner in advancing entrepreneurship, job creation and economic opportunity in Muslim communities by providing tools and investing in pioneering local stake-holders and programs. These partnerships will emphasize local ownership and lasting results. Projects include:

- Convening an **Entrepreneurship Summit** in Washington, D.C. in early 2010 to bring together innovators and leaders in Muslim communities around the world and America's business leaders to advance entrepreneurship and create economic opportunity.
- Supporting the launch of a **Global Virtual Entrepreneurship Network** to connect entrepreneurs with each other as well as a broad range of stake-holders, including investors, mentor networks and business support services, educational institutions, NGOs, and foundations before the next Forum for the Future.
- Fostering **Multilateral Partnerships** with efforts such as investments in the International Finance Corporation's Private Enterprise Partnership (PEP-MENA II) and in the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development's program supporting of human capital development.
- Initiating **Youth:Work**, a five-year, \$30 million USAID project to meet the needs of vulnerable youth in Jordan and their communities, in collaboration with the Government of Jordan, the private sector, and NGO partners.
- Launching a \$76 million comprehensive, **multi-sector initiative in Yemen** to increase economic opportunities, improve delivery of social services, and enhance local governance and civic participation.

Civil Society 2.0

The United States is launching **Civil Society 2.0**, an initiative to empower grassroots civil society organizations around the world by helping them use digital technology. It will include:

- Deploying a team of experienced technologists to work with civil society organizations and provide training and support to build digital capacity.
- Funding new empowerment connection technologies with \$5 million for pilot programs to bolster the new media and networking capabilities of civil society organizations, as well as online learning, in the Middle East and North Africa.

Women's Empowerment

Empowering women and girls and expanding their opportunities to participate fully in all aspects of their societies, are core priorities of the United States. Efforts include:

- Providing initial funding for the launch of the **BMENA Regional Gender Institute**, which will make grants, conduct research, promote scholarship related to gender issues and encourage active participation of diverse groups.
- Allocating \$2 million to fund Innovative Women's Empowerment Programs that will strengthen women's participation in all aspects of society and promote women's equality in the Middle East and North Africa.

Inter-Faith Engagement

The United States has a longstanding history of openness and respect for all faiths, including Islam, and seeks to deepen mutual understanding and create new partnerships with Muslim communities around the world. The United States will partner with Muslim-majority host countries in different regions to hold biannual Inter-Faith Working Groups that will bring together leaders across faith communities, government, civil society, and the private sector to create actionable plans for addressing common challenges affecting all of our communities.